

1-24. (Cancelled)

25. (New) A system for enhancing security for a self-checkout station comprising:

a number of security devices;

a server for receiving an event message from the self-checkout station containing an event indicative of a security violation during a transaction and self-checkout station identification information, for assigning a priority level based upon the event, and for generating an alert message containing the event and the priority level if the priority level is at least a threshold priority level;

a security controller for parsing the alert message to obtain the event, the priority level, and the self-checkout station identification information, for determining one of the security devices and a control procedure from the priority level, and for generating a control message for controlling the one security device in accordance with the control procedure.

26. (New) The system of claim 25 wherein the one security device is a camera and the control message from the security controller controls zoom, pan, tilt, and focus operations of the camera.

27. (New) The system of claim 26 wherein the camera comprises a dome camera mounted to a ceiling above the self-checkout station.

28. (New) The system of claim 25 wherein the one security device is an image data recording device and the control message directs a video stream from a camera at the self-checkout station to the image data recording device.

29. (New) The system of claim 25 wherein the one security device is an image display device and the control message directs a video stream from a camera at the self-checkout station to the image data display device.

30. (New) The system of claim 29 wherein the security controller includes a flashing alert indicator in the video stream.

31. (New) The system of claim 29 wherein the security controller includes a station identifier in the video stream.

32. (New) The system of claim 29 wherein the security controller includes an event identifier in the video stream.

33. (New) The system of claim 25 wherein the one security device is a television and the control message directs an audio video stream from a camera at the self-checkout station to the television, and wherein the security controller includes an audible oscillating alert tone in the audio video stream.

34. (New) The system of claim 25 wherein the one security device is a pager associated with a security officer, wherein the control message contains the self-checkout station identification information, and wherein the security controller transmits the control message to the pager so that the security officer may observe the self-checkout station.

35. (New) The system of claim 25 wherein the server comprises another self-checkout station.

36. (New) A method of enhancing security for a self-checkout station comprising:

a) parsing an alert message from a server coupled to the self-checkout station by a security controller to obtain an identifier of the self-checkout station, an event occurring at the self-checkout station and reported to the server by the self-checkout station, and a priority level

assigned to the event by the server which is at least a threshold priority level;

b) determining a security device from a number of security devices by the security controller;

c) determining a control procedure from the priority level by the security controller;

d) generating a control message for controlling the security device in accordance with the control procedure by the security controller; and

e) sending the control message to the security device by the security controller.

37. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein the security device comprises a camera and step c) includes zooming, panning, tilting, and focusing the camera.

38 (New) The method of claim 36 wherein the security device comprises an image data recording device and step c) includes directing a video stream from a camera at the self-checkout station to the image data recording device.

39. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein the security device comprises an image display device and step c) includes directing a video stream from a camera at the self-checkout station to the image display device.

40. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein step c) further comprises inserting a flashing alert indicator in the video stream.

41. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein the security device comprises a television and step c) includes directing an audio video stream from a camera at the self-checkout station to the television and inserting an audible oscillating alert tone in the audio video stream.

42. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein step c) further comprises inserting the station identifier in the video stream.

43. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein step c) further comprises inserting an event identifier in the video stream.

44. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein the security device comprises a pager and step c) includes transmitting the station identifier to the pager so that the security officer may observe the self-checkout station.